

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-7 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 8 is herein amended. New claims 13-16 have been added.

Specification Objection

The title of the invention was objected to for not being descriptive enough. The title of the invention has been amended to add descriptiveness.

Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action stated that the recitation of “The laminate” in claim 8 lacks an antecedent. Claim 8 has been amended for clarification.

Withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Oguro** (EP 0943402 A2) in view of **Kaneto** (US 5,556,700 A). Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that Oguro in view of Kaneto does not teach or suggest:

A laminate having a thickness of 1 mm or more and composed of a solid electrolyte layer and an electrode layer produced by a process wherein a metal salt solution and a reducing agent solution are disposed on respective both sides of a solid electrolyte form and the metal salt solution is caused to pass through the solid electrolyte form by osmosis to thereby deposit a metal near the interface on the reducing agent solution side of the solid electrolyte form to form an electrolyte layer on the solid electrolyte form

as recited in amended claim 8.

Oguro discloses that the polymeric actuator is formed by repeatedly performing the following three steps: an absorption step to adsorb metal complex; a reducing step to deposit a metal on the surface of the ion-exchange resin product; and a washing step. (Abstract.) The laminate as recited in claim 8 is produced by a single operation to take up a solid electrolyte immersed in a solution for adsorption and reduction. (Specification, page 41.) By the noted operation it is possible to easily obtain a laminate having a thickness of 1 mm or more composed of a solid electrolyte layer and an electrode layer. The resulting laminate has a large electrode surface area, (specification, page 4), and thus is distinguishable from the resulting laminate of Oguro in view of Kaneto.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 8-16 are patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-12 is hereby solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No. 10/525,202
Art Unit: 1795

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No. 091679

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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